



West  
Africa  
Regional  
Program

# WARP

Third Quarter FY2004/Num 11

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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### The BIG NEWS!

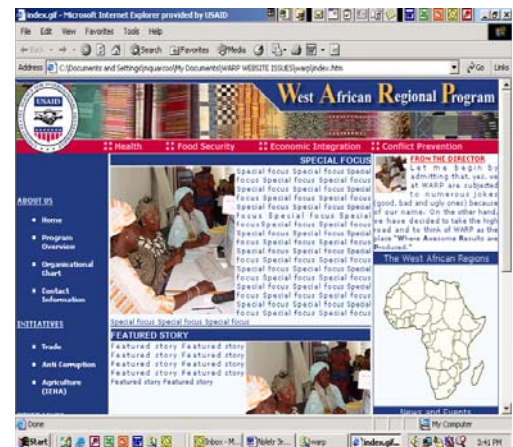
The BIG NEWS is that this is the last edition of the WARP Newsletter that you will receive in this format.

Over the past two months, Margaret Quarcoo, WARP's Communication and Administrative Assistant worked with Laura Lartigue, Technical Writer from USAID/Guinea and Henry Akorsu, Information Specialist at USAID/Ghana to design WARP's new website. WARP staff has contributed the content of the website.

In future you will be notified of the availability of the new Quarterly Newsletter through an email with links to the updated sections.

The new website offers browsers adventure, mystery, tragedy, and romance that translates in the context of the WARP program!

You will have to wait until late April when the website goes live to understand how



HOMEPAGE of WARP Website

WARP Quarterly Newsletter

Third Quarter FY2004 Number 11

# Reproductive Health, Nutrition, Child Survival and HIV/AIDS

## **AWARE Implementing First-Year Workplans**

The **West African Regional Health Project (AWARE-RH and AWARE-HIV/AIDS)** has moved into the implementation phase. FHI leads the HIV/AIDS component, and EngenderHealth, the Reproductive Health and Child Survival component. Other partners include the West Africa Health Organization (WAHO) and CERPOD. AWARE resources are focused largely, but not exclusively, on non-USAID presence countries. AWARE is promoting the adoption of best and promising practices in the region, cross-border interventions, especially in HIV/AIDS, and building the capacity of regional institutions and networks to provide services at the national level.

**Cameroon Prevention of Mother-To-Child Transmission Project (PMTCT)** WARP and AWARE staff traveled to Cameroon to explore and develop a collaborative regional PMTCT project activity with the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Program. The team negotiated a four-year, one million dollar assistance package to support a regional training center that will benefit participants from WARP countries. The main benefit will be through study tours and the training of trainers in the design and implementation of bottom-up PMTCT projects in WARP countries. Implementation will begin around April 2004 with the award of two subgrants to the Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Board. At least one study tour and one TOT session are expected to be implemented in 2004.



Mbingo Baptist Hospital Staff with Felix Awantang

**Capacity Development and Young Professionals' Internship Program Workshop** AWARE-RH and WAHO co-sponsored a meeting on Capacity Development and the Young Professionals Internship Program (YPIP) in Accra, Ghana, February 11-13, 2004. The purpose of the

meeting was to sharpen the focus of AWARE's capacity development component and to further develop the plan for a Young Professionals' Internship Program which will provide young professionals with practical experience in health service delivery as well as language and management skills.

**Support to Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) activities in Cote d'Ivoire** Felix Awantang, WARP SO5 Team Leader, spent a week in Cote d'Ivoire as a member of the Core PEPFAR Team to review the Country Operational Plan being prepared by CDC and the Embassy for submission at the end of March 2004.

**Cameroon and Togo Contraceptive Security** In January and February, USAID/WARP, AWARE, DELIVER, POLICY, and USAID/Washington staff traveled to Cameroon and Togo to develop **Contraceptive Procurement Tables (CPTs)**, and to hold orientation meetings for contraceptive **commodities security transition plans**. In determining contraceptive needs for the two countries through 2006, the CPTs revealed significant changes in contraceptive needs in Cameroon and underscored the need to sign Memoranda of Understanding to ensure adequate reporting. Participants will next develop plans to shift from USAID funding for contraceptives to other sources of funding.

**Contraceptive Security Workshop in Accra** On February 26-27, 2004 WARP and AWARE-RH sponsored a workshop to orient staff of WARP, AWARE-RH, and AWARE-HIV/AIDS to the concept of contraceptive security and to report back on the activities carried out in Togo and Cameroon. Participants assisted WARP and AWARE-RH to develop the indicators to measure progress in contraceptive security as well as to draft a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure accountability on the part of governments receiving the commodities.

**Public-Private Partnership with Coca-Cola** AWARE-HIV/AIDS and The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation (TCCAF) reached an agreement to promote private sector corporate responsibility vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS by expanding and strengthening HIV/AIDS workplace policies and activities among companies working in West Africa. The objectives of this program are: (1) to provide technical

assistance and support to the Coca Cola partner bottling companies and other companies in West Africa to design and/or implement or expand HIV/AIDS workplace policies and programs; and (2) to increase peer advocacy within the private sector in order to at least double the number of companies engaged in HIV/AIDS activities with TCCAF and to focus private sector advocacy on select key issues.

**West Africa Roll Back Malaria Network (WARN) Meeting** On March 23-24, 2004, WARP and AWARE-RH participated with other key players in a WARN meeting to identify potential areas of interest and support that could be provided to WARN through WARP. Areas under discussion included: (1) improved accessibility to treated bednets by the most vulnerable populations in West Africa following successes in Senegal, Zambia, and Ghana; and (2) support to WARN with the REAPING exercise which assesses country efforts in reaching the Abuja targets.

**Consensus Workshop on Best and Promising Practices in HIV/AIDS** On March 22-26, 2004, AWARE-HIV/AIDS sponsored this workshop in Dakar, Senegal for stakeholders and technical experts from the National AIDS Control Programs, regional NGOs, and development partners to reach a consensus on the definition, selection criteria, process of selection, and dissemination of promising and best practices to be used in the region.

**Sub-regional Country Coordinating Mechanism Workshop (HIV/AIDS)** This workshop to focus on ways to reinforce leadership and promote cross-country processes was held from March 29-31, 2004 in Dakar, Senegal for leaders of national Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs). It was co-sponsored and facilitated by AWARE-HIV/AIDS and WAHO. The workshop achieved consensus on the creation of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism to be housed at WAHO. Workshop participants also worked on proposals for submission to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria: one to accelerate access to anti-retroviral drugs for people living with HIV/AIDS and the other to prevent HIV/AIDS within the ECOWAS Armed Forces on Peacekeeping Missions. Participants identified capacity strengthening needs of CCMs.



Selecting HIV/AIDS Best Practices - Dakar

**Capacity Building Task Force: Regional Technical Leadership Institutions and Institutional Capacity Building** Over the last few months, the capacity building task force has been working on developing an AWARE-specific profile for Regional Technical Leadership Institutions (RTLIs) and on identifying institutions in the WARP region that have the potential to be RTLIs. The team has also developed a toolkit for assessing the capacity of these institutions and for developing plans to strengthen their capacity according to their needs. The task force is presently setting up an Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) Oversight Committee comprising partners with experience and interest in this domain. The oversight committee will provide guidance on AWARE's ICD efforts. The group will meet at the beginning of May 2004 and then subsequently once a year to review the past year's activities and provide guidance for future activities.

## Upcoming Events

- **Young Professionals Internship Program Workshop in Accra, on April 8-9, 2004**, AWARE-RH and WAHO will finalize the design of the YPIP program.
- On **April 26-27, 2004** AWARE-RH will convene a **Best Practices Task Force Meeting** with a view to reaching consensus on criteria for selecting best practices and to select best practices that can address identified regional priority needs in the areas of family planning, reproductive health, child survival, and infectious disease.
- AWARE HIV/AIDS will hold a consultative meeting on a proposed **Study of the Impact of Conflict on HIV/AIDS**. This workshop will bring together development partners and those working in the

humanitarian and emergency response sector to define: (1) the objectives of the proposed study; (2) the process for protocol development; (3) roles and responsibilities. Funding issues will also be discussed.

- In **April, 2004** AWARE-RH will identify **best practices in child survival** through a series of meetings co-sponsored by WHO, UNICEF, BASICS, AWARE-RH, and the MOHs from participating countries. The goal is to reach a consensus on best practices in preparation for dissemination and replication activities.
- AWARE-HIV/AIDS will organize a **regional HIV/AIDS Corridor Workshop** from **April 21-23, 2004, in Lome, Togo**. The main objectives of the workshop are to (1) finalize the site mapping of the PSAMAO/PSAMAC corridor; (2) standardize the reference manuals for implementation of activities; (3) harmonize the implementation of the activities; and (4) build the capacity of the implementing partners. The participants will include National AIDS Control Programs, social marketing programs, NGOs from Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Mali and Cameroon, local NGOs, and other partners working on cross-border activities.
- AWARE-HIV/AIDS is holding a **Regional Policy Agenda Workshop to Combat HIV/AIDS** from **April 26-29, 2004, in Accra, Ghana**. The aim of this workshop is to assist the region in developing a policy agenda based on an analysis of the political environment of the program to combat HIV/AIDS. The five objectives are: (1) to discuss the status of the fight against HIV/AIDS in the region; (2) to agree on political policy objectives; (3) to identify the respective roles of the main stakeholders; (4) to identify a means of reinforcing alliances among the major stakeholders in the fight against the epidemic; and (5) to develop a policy schedule and adopt an implementation strategy.
- With AWARE-RH support, CERPOD will host a **workshop on Operations Research** in **Bamako, Mali, from May 3-14, 2004**. This workshop will bring together participants from 13 countries to identify OR issues, design study protocols, and

begin investigation into key RH programmatic issues.

- AWARE-HIV/AIDS will hold a **SPECTRUM training workshop in Cotonou, Benin from May 24-28, 2004**. Participants will represent the 18 AWARE countries, CERPOD, and WAHO. The objective is to conduct SPECTRUM training with the partners in a bid to initiate a national elaboration process for the AIM (AIDS Impact Model), which will serve as a basis for the National AIMS which will be drawn up later. The participants are expected to come from the National Population Committees of their respective countries.
- In **early May**, the **AWARE Policy and Advocacy Advisory Group** will meet to review the Policy Environment Assessment and arrive at a consensus on the most pressing issues that can be addressed through policy reform. This policy agenda will be implemented with support from the AWARE-RH project and its field support partners.
- The **AWARE Task Force for Institutional Capacity Development** will convene a meeting in **May** to review the program strategy, profiles and assessment tool kit; to assist with the selection of institutions to benefit from program interventions; and to establish collaborative partnerships.
- From **June 14-18, 2004** AWARE-HIV/AIDS will support a **Data Analysis Skills Workshop in Bamako, Mali**. Upon completion, the participants must ensure that there is conformity between projections generated in Cotonou and current national projections. The participants must then collect the required complementary data and return to the Data Analysis Skills Workshop to consider the use of data during the decision-making process with regards to HIV/AIDS, as well as consider the variety of data that is most important to support advocacy and policy dialogue in the fight against HIV/AIDS in West Africa. The workshop also involves making available projections generated with the help of SPECTRUM as well as from research data.
- From **June 28-30, 2004**, **AWARE-HIV/AIDS will organize a Network Needs Assessment Workshop in Niamey,**



**Niger.** The workshop is expected to serve as a dialogue among the different networks of parliamentarians, NGOs, religious institutions, women, youth, persons living with HIV, journalists, etc. involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS in West Africa and thereby enable them to express their needs to effectively achieve their mission of

advocacy and policy dialogue. The Niamey workshop will deal with the elaborated action plans or updates by the different networks and thus enable AWARE-HIV/AIDS to effectively support the networks.

## Food Security, Natural Resources Management & Agriculture

### Food Security

**A Rural Mapping Workshop was held in Bamako, January 5-8, 2004** to explore with partners what mapping and GIS programs they have in the region. At this workshop, the regional peasants' organization (ROPPA) explained their planned GIS project with the Regional AGRHYMET Center. WARP may assist the region to develop mapping protocols to enhance inter-country comparability.

**A Food Security and Nutritional Policy Workshop was held in Bamako, January 13-15, 2004.**

**A meeting of CILSS Headquarters Donors convened in Ouagadougou, March 9, 2004** to review the outcomes of the Nouakchott Heads of State summit. WARP's Food Security Advisor, Jorge Oliveira attended.

**A LandUse/Landcover Workshop was held in Niamey, March 1 -12, 2004** to continue work on extending coverage of agro-ecological mapping to all West African countries.

### Agriculture

**The new WARP strategy for agriculture was finalized by WARP staff in Accra, January 12 – 23, 2004** with USAID/Washington staffers Meredith Soule and Fenton Sands. Thanks guys, we could not have done it without you! Final review is planned for April via videoconference.

**At the INSAH Donors Meeting held in Bamako, February 10, 2004,** Team Leader Rolf Anderson was elected president of the Donor's group for the Institute du Sahel (INSAH). INSAH is involved in two major areas, supporting

research and scientific coordination for agriculture and for health and population. WARP is INSAH's major donor.

**At the West Africa Regional Conference on Agriculture and Trade (RESAO) held in Bamako, February 12-14, 2004,** private traders exchanged information on trade opportunities in food and other products.

**The USDA Annual Agriculture Outlook Forum and the MIS meeting** was attended by WARP staffer Robert Kagbo. These meetings were organized for nine African countries to learn lessons from the US experience. WARP is implementing a regional MIS system in West Africa.

### Biotechnology

**CORAF held a Biotechnology/Biosafety Planning Meeting in Dakar, February 16-18, 2004.** CORAF is leading an effort to develop regional priorities for biotechnology, and has established a planning process involving representatives from around the region. Both WARP and USAID Washington are providing significant support to assist CORAF in this effort.

**West African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology Planning** Team Leader Rolf Anderson participated on the Inter-Agency team planning the upcoming S&T conference to be held in Ouagadougou this summer.

**At a Technology Transfer Workshop held in Ouagadougou, March 8-9, 2004,** farmers from Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal discussed the results of WARP's technology transfer project. Farmers continued the tech. transfer process

without external support by using proceeds from seed sales from the previous year.

## Upcoming Events

- **A Crop Monitoring Meeting will be held in Praia, Cape Verde on March 29, 2004.** This is the first meeting for the 2004/2005 agriculture crop season. Food security specialist Jorge Oliveira will attend.
- **A CILSS Donors Meeting will be held on April 29, 2004** to review the recommendations made by the Heads of State. Team Leader Rolf Anderson plans to attend.
- **A CILSS Extraordinary Council of Ministers will be held in Nouakchott, Mauritania in June 2004** to review structural and organizational changes to CILSS which have resulted from both the Heads of State meeting and our organizational evaluation.
- **An Emergency Visit to the Centre de Lutte Anti-cridienne (CLAA) in Nouakchott, Mauritania April 1-6, 2004** is planned to deal with issues surrounding the spraying of locust swarms. The U.S. Embassy is involved. The goal is to assess the severity of the locust situation, the financing required to continue control operations, and the potential environmental impacts of spraying. Agriculture Development Advisor, Harry Bottenberg, will attend.
- **The CORAF General Assembly will be held in Brazzaville, Congo on April 14-16, 2004.** This is an important meeting for WARP as we have an opportunity to learn about the research priorities and agenda of the National Agricultural Research Services to guide our selection of activities.
- **An AELGA Phase II training workshop will be held in Kayes/Mopti, Mali on April 26-30, 2004** in collaboration with the Direction Nationale de l'Appui au Monde Rural. The goal is to strengthen the capacity of field extension officers to rapidly identify, report, and safely manage pest outbreak emergencies.



Locust Sprayer Training in Mauritania

- **CILSS has planned a Work Program Retreat, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso May 2004** as a result of significant input from the CILSS Heads of State Summit. They will revise their 2004 work program and 2004-2008 strategy. Jorge Oliveira will attend this workshop to provide our input to the revised work plan.
- **The AGRHYMET Pest Management Training Program Review is scheduled for June 3-4, 2004 in Niamey, Niger.** WARP will visit the Agrhymet Regional Center to discuss their pest management training program and to identify potential areas for additional strengthening.
- **An AELGA Phase I training workshop will be held in Maradi, Niger on June 7-11, 2004.** This activity will strengthen the capacity of senior Ministry of Agriculture staff to rapidly identify, report, and safely manage locust outbreaks, as well as to prepare trainers for the Phase II workshop in 2005.
- **The Ministerial Science & Technology Conference will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso June 14-16, 2004.** WARP is helping plan, coordinate, and organize the conference.

## Regional Economic Integration

### West Africa Trade Hub

**Nigeria's AGOA Resource Center was officially opened** by the West Africa Trade Hub (WATH) in collaboration with USAID/Nigeria and the U.S. Consulate in Lagos in February 2004.

The Hub also participated in the inauguration of the **AGOA Resource Center in Douala, Cameroon**. There are now 11 AGOA Resource Centers in West Africa.

**Trade delegations from Guinea, Benin, and Niger** visited the WATH offices in Accra during their respective travels to Ghana for the African Connections America workshop and the West Africa Partners in Development workshop in late February.

**Sierra Leonean production of traditional hand-woven cloth** came under the spotlight when WATH staff, accompanied by representatives of Sierra Leone's Export Development and Investment Corporation, visited the country to research current production. WATH staff also visited an apparel producer in Freetown who had rebuilt and re-equipped a factory following its looting and destruction during the civil war.

**Niger and Mali** received technical assistance from WATH staff on their submissions for a Category 9 AGOA textile certificate. Outcomes of the visit included a framework for the Malian Textile VISA administration and work-plans for Category 9 submissions required for export of this category of export.

**The WATH CD-Rom containing its AGOA Resource Center databank** was updated and distributed to all AGOA Resource Centers, USAID Missions and several Trade Associations. It contains a comprehensive listing of off-line articles and links to trade-related web sites to assist the private and public sectors.

### ECOGEE

**ECOGEE (Growth through Engendering Enterprise in ECOWAS Countries)** and WABNET (The West African Businesswomen's Network) jointly held a Leadership Training Workshop February 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> in Bamako, Mali that brought together 28 business

women from 11 West African countries. Seventeen women were from WABNET and the remaining 11 were recruited through U.S. Embassies, Chambers of Commerce, and through the IBI website. The course equipped the women with skills that will enable them to play leadership roles necessary at the levels of their business organizations as well as society as a whole.

**A Financial Management Training Workshop** was held by IBI February 10<sup>th</sup> to February 12<sup>th</sup> in Dakar, Senegal for WABNET's regional President, and Treasurers. This is what the Anglophone Treasurer said about the training: *"Financial training improved my capacity as treasurer and my business. This training will improve our women, especially the grassroots whom we are dealing with. I advise that these trainings are done at local chapter level so that the other women can benefit."*

### ECOTRADE

The **ECOTRADE Project** undertook technical missions to **Nigeria and Ghana in January and February 2004** to further progress on their adoption of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff (CET). On January 7, 2004, President Obasanjo and his Cabinet decided to adopt the ECOWAS CET. The National Coordinating Committee in Nigeria is now mobilizing to take the necessary steps for implementation of the CET.

**The Gambia's CET National Coordinating Committee** completed an impact study on adopting the CET in this country with the assistance of consultants. The results were discussed at the national stakeholder consultation meeting held in Banjul, The Gambia, on February 12, 2004.

To facilitate sharing of ideas, experiences and information on the adoption of the ECOWAS Common External Tariff, a "Yahoo Group" has been created for partners and interested parties in the ECOTRADE project. For more information please email [waregionalcoordinator@yahoo.com](mailto:waregionalcoordinator@yahoo.com).

### WAIBL

The Corporate Council on Africa's West African International Business Linkages **Pogram**

(WAIBL) held a conference entitled “Increasing Capital Flows to Africa” on February 26, 2004 in New York.

**West African Ambassadors & Economic Attaches in Washington, D.C.** attended a luncheon and roundtable discussion hosted by WAIBL in February. This is now a regular event aimed to strengthen their relationship with their U.S. counterparts.

**The Gambia hosted a Technical Trade Mission** from Prince George’s County, Maryland in February 2004. The principal objective of this mission was to complete an assessment of the business climate. The delegation, comprised of ten companies, participated in over 40 business-to-business meetings with Gambian firms.

## Upcoming Events

- WATH staff will travel to **The Gambia** in response to a request from this government to provide AGOA-related support in export promotion in general, to work with the AGOA Resource Center, and to gather information on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and standards.
- WATH will support representatives of Aid to Artisans Ghana, as well as businessmen from **Mali, Niger and Ghana** to attend the SOURCES trade show in New York in **May 2004**. The SOURCES trade show is the premiere show for handcrafted products and hand-woven textiles, specifically targeting foreign producers selling to the US market.
- WATH will open two new AGOA Resource Centers in **Chad & Mauritania** during the next quarter.
- WATH is planning a **training workshop for AGOA Resource Center administrators** in **May**. WATH is also coordinating with USAID to offer an additional training in May on “**Trade Map**” and “**Product Map**”, two market/export development research tools.
- WATH consultants will conduct a **series of analytical studies** on new potential exports for West Africa to the U.S. under

AGOA (shea butter and cashews), road transport systems, and the impact of corruption on the West African economy.

- **ECOTRADE** A national workshop on the Common External Tariff (CET) will be held in Freetown, **Sierra Leone April 23 - May 3, 2004** to inform the public about pending tariff changes, and to assist Sierra Leone develop its national report to ECOWAS on adoption of the CET.
- **Ghana** will hold a national stakeholder’s workshop on the CET in Accra on **May 6, 2004**.
- **WAIBL’s U.S. – West Africa Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Conference** will be held on **March 31, 2004 in Newark, New Jersey**. This is a first for WAIBL, the Eastern Trade Council and the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission. Companies from the U.S., Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal and Togo have registered. CCA is sponsoring 5 West African ICT firms to participate in this conference. The WAIBL-sponsored delegation will also meet with U.S. companies and visit Lucent Technologies.
- The **WABNET Annual Executive Committee meeting** will be held in **Sierra Leone this April 17-25, 2004**. On the agenda are planning for the October 2004 General Assembly and discussion of the WABNET Institutional Analysis and Strengthening Strategy study.
- The pilot manual **Women Doing Business in Mali, 2004** will be produced by a Malian consulting firm this quarter and will serve as the model for other ECOWAS countries manuals.
- **West Africa Monetary Zone** An “experts meeting” has been scheduled for **April 19-20, 2004 in Accra, Ghana**, to discuss the ECOWAS-initiated proposal to create a second sub-regional zone for economic and currency integration. WARP will provide support



for the participation of the West African Monetary Institute.

- **Regional Market Information System** Final designs for this five-year project have been submitted to WARP in April 2004. Over the last quarter, the

International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and the International Fertilizer and Development Center (IFDC) held a series of national workshops throughout West Africa with potential partners to inform project design.

## West African Power Pool (WAPP) - Energy

The **Stability Study for the region's transmission system**, carried out by our contractor Nexant, continues through this quarter. They have been traveling to most of the countries in the region to collect information and to meet with utilities. This is our major focus until completion in May.

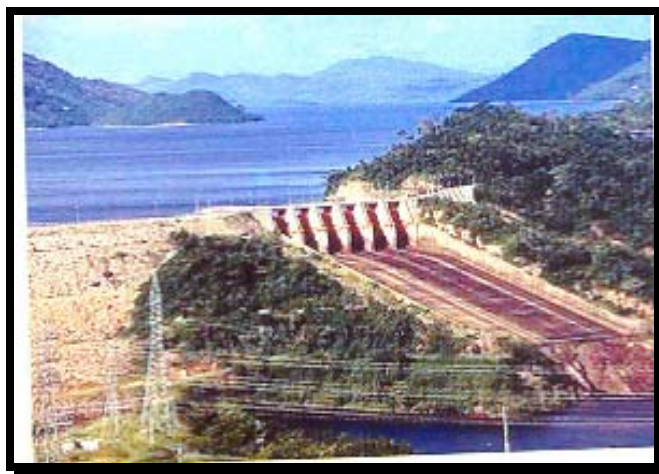
**A WAPP Regional Transmission Study workshop** was held in Cotonou, from February 1-14 to review the data collected thus far, initiate the modeling and finalize assumptions for the study.

**Participants from WAPP utilities visited the Southern African Power Pool** from February 22-29 as part of our utility partnership program. The goal of this trip was to provide relevant

examples of a power pool structure, market operations, management of an information center, and dealing with the political hurdles to pool development.

### Upcoming Events

- The WAPP Technical and Institutional Working Groups will meet in Accra, April 12-16 to work on the following topics: 1) Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for regional transmission lines; 2) Regional regulation; 3) Review progress made on the stability study; and 4) Improve model specification of the regional transmission model.



Hydro electric Power from the Volta River Dam, Ghana

## **SPECIAL FOCUS**

### **WEST AFRICA TRADE HUB (WATH)**

#### **Background**

WATH was designed in response to U.S. President George Bush's announcement of the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative in October 2001 to help African businesses take advantage of market access opportunities under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The objective of the WATH is to encourage West African businesses to take advantage of AGOA and to develop capacity for more effective engagement in the multilateral trading system by supporting efforts to harmonize West African policies and positions.

The Hub covers the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo.

#### **Project components & activities**

**Trade Capacity Building:** This component assists West African nations exploit the potential benefits of increased international and intra-regional trade as a preferred means to achieve development and alleviate poverty.

**AGOA Export Business Development:** WATH aims to ensure West African countries take greater advantage of AGOA by: (1) strengthening the capacity of producers and sellers of hand-loomed textiles, cashew, and shea butter to meet the requirements of the U.S. market and (2) encouraging a West African public sector environment that is conducive to increased trade in selected products.

**AGOA Support Services:** This component provides information on AGOA and trade-related issues through the AGOA Resource Centers and facilitates the processes that national governments and the private sector must complete in order to comply with AGOA VISA and certification requirements.

**Information Dissemination:** WATH enhances access on the part of West African officials to information on issues such as trade policy, key private sector umbrella associations and entrepreneurs, and interested parties worldwide. This component serves to link WATH with its stakeholders across West Africa and the world.

#### **Major partners in the public and private sector**

- World Trade Organization (WTO,) World Bank, IMF
- Donor agencies, USAID, USDA, USTR, USDOC, and U.S. Embassies
- Regional public bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), the Permanent Interstate Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).
- Private sector networks such as West African Businesswomen's Network (WABNET), West African Enterprise Network (WAEN), and Salon International d'Artisanat de L'Afrique de l'Ouest (SIAO)
- Representatives of national Trade Ministries, AGOA Secretariats and Chambers of Commerce
- Trade associations at the commodity sector level, within and across national borders
- Selected business leaders, private sector associations and experienced entrepreneurs at the firm level.

For further information, go to the WATH webpage at <http://www.watradehub.com>

## Regional Conflict Prevention

**Na Wi Pot** The Consortium comprising International Rescue Committee, Search for Common Ground and Center for Victims of Torture continued its program on all fronts, including conflict resolution training, construction of community centers, community sensitization, referrals and counseling of victims of gender based violence, and the local language broadcast of the radio soap opera “Prevention is better than a Cure.” The project focuses on the cross-border areas of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

**Reconstruction, Peace Building and Conflict Mitigation Project (RCB)** The RCB program, implemented by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Guinea Bissau reported good progress in recent weeks. A peace building conference was held in Sao Domingos with youth from Guinea Bissau and Senegal. The theme of the conference was “The youth and peace building”. This is but one of the series of activities lined up for the peace building and conflict mitigation component of the USAID-supported Reconstruction project. The response and interest shown in this initiative by the governments of Guinea Bissau and Senegal, as well as civil society, have been considerable and very encouraging. SMILE Radio and television in Guinea Bissau, BBC and VOA reported on the peace building conference as an international conference. The project is now inundated with requests for information from all over the country as a result of the coverage of its activities.

**Enhancing Economic Stability and Social Unity** in the Western Division of the Gambia (ESSU) Concern Universal has reported good progress in meeting its objectives as its first phase comes to an end. Some of the project’s successes include:

- Reaching over 50,000 people with its cross-border inter-active radio programs;
- Reaching over 27,000 people with its conflict prevention training and peace building programs;
- Infrastructure reconstruction and rehabilitation programs in 50 villages, and
- Providing training and workshops for over 1,000 villagers in emergency preparedness.

**ECOWAS and WANEP** - A milestone was reached in February, 2004 when the West African Network for Peace building (WANEP) and ECOWAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding on WANEP’s role in supporting conflict prevention activities and early warning activities for ECOWAS. In March ECOWAS hosted a regional conference on illegal trafficking in small arms in West Africa. This conference endorsed the creation of a small arms unit for ECOWAS and called for the complete revision of the existing ECOWAS Moratorium and Code of Conduct on arms trafficking. Recommendations were also made to harmonize existing national legal codes and policies regarding arms in order to close the many existing loopholes.



16-day Anti-violence rally in Sierra Leone

## Upcoming Events

- **Conflict APS deadline** The deadline for submission of proposals in response to WARP’s Annual Program Statement will close shortly. WARP will advise partner USAID missions and Embassies of the status of submissions.

- **TAG Meeting.** The Technical Advisory Group Meeting for SpO 7 (Conflict Prevention and Mitigation) is tentatively set for May 13 and 14. TAG members will soon be requested to provide input for the agenda.
- **Phase II Decisions** The first phases of three WARP funded programs come to an end in the next two months. These are the Ni Wa Pot, ESSU, and the RCB programs. Each has submitted proposals for the phase II options included in the grants. WARP will consult with pertinent Embassy and USAID partners before making these decisions in the near future.

## Regional Environmental Advisor Update

### Environmental Compliance and Support

The REA has assisted Missions and Embassies in **Benin, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal** with the Environmental Review process for ongoing and new activities.

The REA is also working with the **ENCAP program** to assess environmental training needs in West Africa. ENCAP aims to strengthen the environmental review, management and monitoring capacity of USAID missions, contractors, grantees, and host country collaborators in Africa.

The REA has also actively participated in ongoing discussions and policy development with Mission Environmental Officers, the REDSO REA and Washington compliance officers regarding IEE amendments and Program Environmental Assessments. The WARP REA has accepted an invitation to participate in an Advisory Committee established to assess Africa Bureau priorities in relation to environmental capacity needs.

### Technical Assistance

In **Nigeria**, the REA worked as an advisor to the Mission Contracting Officer in reviewing proposals for an upcoming NRM activity.

In **Ghana**, the REA has participated in discussions and conducted field visits in relation to the forestry, mining and commercial tree crop sectors. The REA also participated in a regional invasive species workshop held in Accra in March.

### Regional Project Initiatives

The REA has taken the lead on a proposed **Ghana/Ivory Coast Transboundary NRM activity** that would focus on the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources in the south-west Ghana and south-east Ivory Coast. The activity would be coordinated through local governments, NGOs, and the private sector and generate a series of regional best management practices. A draft project paper for the NRM Transboundary initiative will be completed in June.

WARP's REA and USAID's Regional Urban Development Organization are teaming up with the **Embassies in Niger and Togo and the USAID Ghana Mission** to develop a proposal for the **Urban Grants Program**. The activity would work through local government and with community organizations to address solid waste management. The proposal will be submitted in May 2004.

### Upcoming Events

#### Environmental Compliance & Technical Assistance to the Region

- **Benin, April 5-9, 2004** Review status of USAID/Benin programs in relation to environmental compliance
- Technical support to the development of an USAID/EGAT and D/G concept paper
- Participation in discussions on urban environmental activities with EGAT/ Energy and State Dept.



- **Sierra Leone and USAID/Guinea, April 19-23, 2004** Needs assessment of Outamba-Kilimi National Park for the U.S. Embassy and site visit to Kono diamond mines to assist USAID/Guinea and U.S. Embassy in Sierra Leone determine the best way to proceed with ESF-funded diamond mining activity in relation to environmental review procedures
- **Senegal, May 19-29, 2004** Review of NRM field activities to provide guidance and support to developing standards and guidelines for sustainable resource extraction
- **Mali, June 14-20, 2003** Environmental capacity assessment of Environment Ministry in association with USAID/ Mali and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

### Regional Project Initiatives

- **Ghana/Ivory Coast Transboundary Initiative** Additional baseline information will be collected, primarily from Ivory Coast during this quarter. Follow – up meetings with key local government organizations and NGOs in both countries. A draft project paper will be completed by the end of June.
- **Urban Program Grant Proposal –** Proposal development In coordination with USAID/Ghana and the U.S. Embassies in Niger and Togo for regional urban solid waste management activities. Preliminary discussions were held with Ambassador Engle and Mathew Harrington on April 9, 2004 in Lome.

\* **Missions requiring the services of the Environmental Advisor should contact him at [Rclausen@usaid.gov](mailto:Rclausen@usaid.gov) as early as possible given the high level of demand.**

